第十二話

CH.11: EAVES-DROPPING

聆秘

茶
MAYBE THEY WOULD KNOW OF MY PARENTS WHERE-ABOUTS
BUT WHY DID THEY SAVE ME?
SO YOU TWO ARE REALLY FELLOW DISCIPLES DISGUISED AS GRANDFATHER AND GRANDDAUGHTER TO CARRY OUT SOME SCHEME IN FUZHOU.
OH, SO EVERY-ONE'S ALREADY GATHERED HERE!

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WHY DON'T YOU ASK ABOUT YOUR 6TH SHIGE?
HOW COME YOU DON'T ASK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE BUT YOUR DA-SHIGE?
WHERE IS DA-SHIGE? WHY ISN'T HE WITH YOU?
I AM NOT TALKING TO YOU, ANYMORE. 4TH SHIGE. YOU'RE THE ONLY GENTLEMAN OF THE PUNCH! WHERE'S DA-SHIGE?
PFFT! YOU'RE STANDING HERE IN SAFE AND SOUND MONKEY-BOY WHY SHOULD I BOTHER ASKING ABOUT YOU?
HEY, 4TH SHIGE. DON'T ANSWER HER.
HO! ONLY YOUR 4TH SHIGE IS A GENTLEMAN AND WE ARE ALL VILLAINS?

WE DEPARTED WITH DA-SHIGE YESTERDAY AT HENGYANG. HE TOLD US TO COME FIRST.
BY NOW HE IS PROBABLY ALREADY SOBER, AND SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO TELL YOU ONE WORD ABOUT THE STRANGE AND INTERESTING THINGS THAT HAPPENED ON OUR WAY HERE WHEN I WAS WITH 2ND SHIGE!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME, FINE!
WHAT? HE'S DRINKING AGAIN?
NONSENSE!
SO HE DECIDED TO CELEBRATE AND WENT ALL OUT!
I THINK HE FIGURED HE WOULD SEE HIS LITTLE SHIMEI WHEN HE COMES TO HENGYANG AND FELT REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT.

YESTERDAY MORNING, THE EIGHT OF US WERE JUST ABOUT TO START THE TRIP WHEN OUR DA-SHIGE SUDDENLY CAUGHT THE SCENT OF SOME GREAT WINE FROM THE STREET, AND FOUND IT LEADING TO A BEGGAR DRINKING OUT OF A WINE CALABASH THAT REALLY PIQUED HIS INTEREST, SO HE WENT OVER TO TALK
TO THE BEGGAR, PRAISING HIS MONKEY'S WINE. SOON, THERE HE WAS JUST HAPPILY GURGLING AWAY THE BEGGAR'S WINE WITHOUT CARING HOW DIRTY THE CALABASH IS

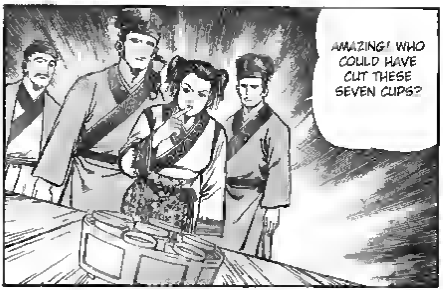
IT SEEMS THIS GIRL REALLY LIKES HER ELDEST FELLOW DISCIPLE.
BUT IF THAT 2ND DISCIPLE OF MT HUA SECT IS ALREADY SO OLD, THE ELDEST DISCIPLE MUST BE EVEN OLDER.
THE GIRL IS JUST ONLY 16 OR 17, HOW COULD SHE FALL IN LOVE WITH AN OLD DRUNKARD LIKE THAT?

ANYWAY DA-SHIGE ENDED UP ACQUIRING THE MONKEY AND ASKED ME TO CARE FOR IT. SEE, THIS IS HIM HERE!

UGH, ENOUGH, THAT SOUNDS DISGUSTING!

HAHAHA!

YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FRIEND HERE LOOK JUST LIKE BROTHERS! NO WONDER YOUR NICKNAME IS MONKEY-SIX


AMAZING! WHO COULD HAVE CUT THESE SEVEN CUPS?
HMM?

WHO DO YOU THINK CUT THESE SEVEN CUPS?
ONE THRUST 7 DIRECTIONS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CUT THROUGH GOLD AND JADE

GOOD BYE!

IT WAS THE 'NIGHT RAIN OF XIAOXIANG' GREAT MR MO WASN'T IT!

I'VE GOT IT! I'VE GOT IT! IT'S ONE OF THE 36 MOVES OF THE WIND-TWIRLING GEESE-FELLING SWORDPLAY THE 17TH MOVE KNOWN AS FELLING 9 GEESE WITH ONE STRIKE

DID YOU AND 2ND SHIGE FIND OUT ANYTHING WHEN YOU TWO WERE IN PUZHOU?
THERE'S BEEN RUMOURS FLOATING AROUND THE REALM ABOUT FORTUNE PRESTIGE AGENCY BEING WRECKED BY QINGCHENG SECT.

MORE THAN THAT WE EVEN SAW MASTER YU CHANGHAI IN PERSON!

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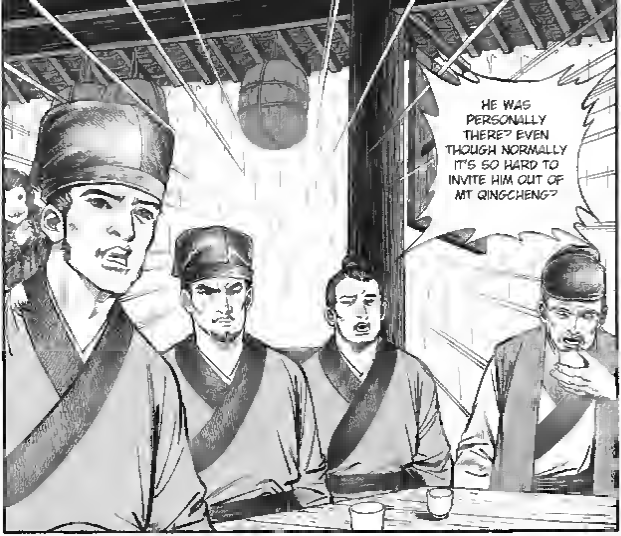
HE WAS PERSONALLY THERE? EVEN THOUGH NORMALLY IT'S SO HARD TO INVITE HIM OUT OF MT QINGCHENG?

HE EVEN GOT LIN ZHENNAN AND HIS WIFE CAPTURED ONLY THEIR SON GOT AWAY
HE WAS ABSOLUTELY BRUTAL TOO. NOT ONLY DID HE KILL THE HENCHMEN OF THE AGENCY

I SEE WHY DID THEY CAPTURE THEM ANYWAY?
HOW DID HE ESCAPE?
I SAVED HIM!
WELL SINCE WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR DA-SHIGE, I GUESS I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE FULL STORY
SO YOU ALL KNOW TO STAY ON GUARD IF YOU ENCOUNTER THE FOLKS FROM QINGCHENG
IT BEGAN LAST YEAR WHILE DA-SHIGE WAS DRINKING IN AN INN IN HANZHONG
AND ENCOUNTERED QINGCHENG'S HONG RENXIONG AND HOU RENYING.

PART OF QINGCHENG SECT'S ELITE 4
HONG REN XIONG
HOU REN YING

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? HOW DARE YOU BLOCK OUR PATH? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT WE'RE PART OF THE QING-CHENG SECT'S ELITE 4? HURRY AND SCRAM!

THE FUCK DID YOU JUST SAY?!
DUMB BEARS AND WILD BOARS THE FOUR BEASTS OF QING-CHENG!
LINGHU CHONG
YOU HEARD ME!
WATCH OUT!
BASTARD!

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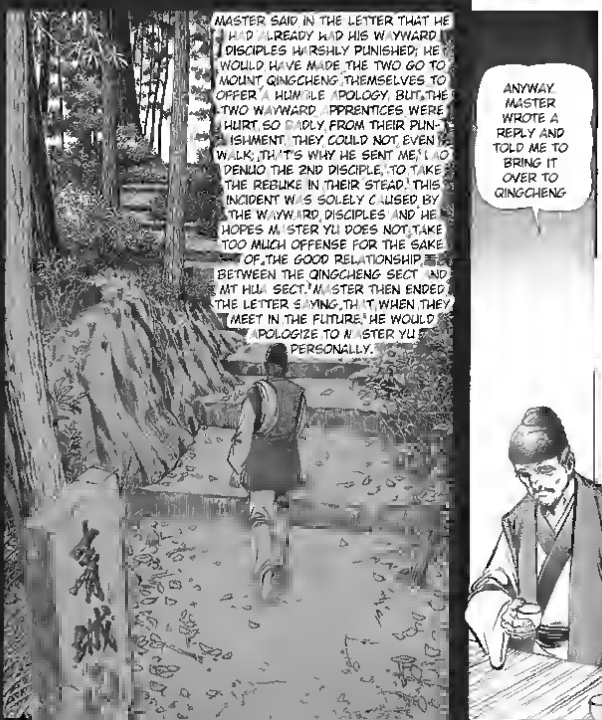
DID YOU KNOW 6TH SHIDI? THE QINGCHENG SECT HAS A VERY UNIQUE MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUE. IT'S CALLED "ASSES ON THE GROUND ROLLING BACKWARDS TO FELL GEESE"!
HAH HA!!!

ON THE SURFACE HE CLAIMED TO BE APOLOGIZING FOR HIS DISCIPLES, BUT IN TRUTH HE WAS ACTUALLY COMPLAINING TO OUR MASTER
HE DID NOT DISCIPLINE HIS APPRENTICES WELL SO ON
THE WORDS WERE VERY POLITE, SAYING THINGS LIKE HOW
SO MASTER YU WROTE A LETTER TO OUR MASTER. AND HE SURE IS A CUNNING OLD FOX!
YES. I REMEMBER HOW BADLY DA-SHIGE HAD IT. FATHER WAS SO ANGRY DA-SHIGE GOT SPANKED 30 TIMES!
HEY. I TOOK 10 STROKES FOR DA-SHIGE TOO! SPARE SOME SYMPATHY FOR ME TOO!
SO THIS GIRL IS ACTUALLY THE DAUGHTER OF MT HUA SECT'S LEADER!

HAHAHA!!!

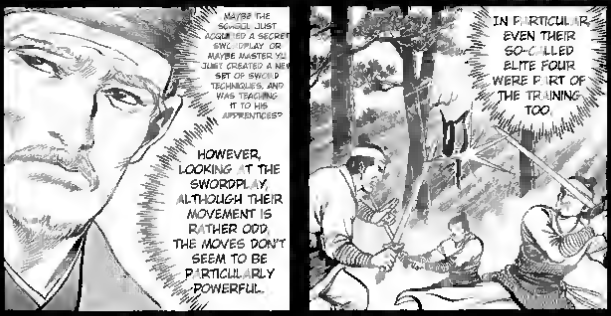
FATHER SAID THAT'S FOR YOU NOT STOPPING HIM AND LAUGHING ALONG WITH DA-SHIGE!


MASTER SAID IN THE LETTER THAT HE HAD ALREADY HAD HIS WAYWARD DISCIPLES HARSHLY PUNISHED; HE WOULD HAVE MADE THE TWO GO TO MOUNT QINGCHENG THEMSELVES TO OFFER A HUMBLE APOLOGY, BUT THE TWO WAYWARD APPRENTICES WERE HURT SO BADLY FROM THEIR PUNISHMENT THEY COULD NOT EVEN WALK, THAT'S WHY HE SENT ME, LAO DENUO THE 2ND DISCIPLE, TO TAKE THE REBUKE IN THEIR STEAD. THIS INCIDENT WAS SOLELY CAUSED BY THE WAYWARD DISCIPLES AND HE HOPES MASTER YU DOES NOT TAKE TOO MUCH OFFENSE FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE QINGCHENG SECT AND MT HUA SECT. MASTER THEN ENDED THE LETTER SAYING THAT WHEN THEY MEET IN THE FUTURE, HE WOULD APOLOGIZE TO MASTER YU PERSONALLY.
ANYWAY, MASTER WROTE A REPLY AND TOLD ME TO BRING IT OVER TO QINGCHENG

ANYWAY, DURING MY BRIEF STAY, I ENDED UP STUMBLING INTO THEIR SECRET..
I STAYED ON MT QINGCHENG FOR SIX DAYS AND IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE 7TH DAY THAT I WAS FINALLY RECEIVED BY MASTER YU
SO THIS OLD MAN'S REAL NAME IS CALLED LAO DENUO
!?
DURING MY STAY IN THE FINE-WIND ESTATE, I GOT REALLY BORED SINCE THEY WOULDN'T LET ME SEE MASTER YU ON THE 3RD DAY. I GOT UP EARLY AND DECIDED TO TRAIN TO PREVENT MY SKILLS FROM GETTING RUSTY

THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY PRACTICING THE SAME SET OF SWORDPLAY AND SEEMED TO HAVE ONLY JUST LEARNED THE SET, BECAUSE THEIR MOVEMENT LOOKED QUITE STIFF.
I WAS WANDERING AROUND AND HAPPENED TO PASS BY THE EXERCISE FIELD. WHEN I CHANCED UPON 10 OR SO OF THEM.

I FELT SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS WAS GOING ON. MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN PART OF THE SWORD SCHOOL FOR DECADES AND EACH WOULD HAVE JOINED AT A DIFFERENT TIME. SO WHY WAS EVERYONE LEARNING THE SAME SWORDPLAY AT THE SAME TIME?


MAYBE THE SCHOOL JUST ACQUIRED A SECRET SWORDPLAY OR MAYBE MASTER YU JUST CREATED A NEW SET OF SWORD TECHNIQUES AND WAS TEACHING IT TO HIS APPRENTICES?
HOWEVER, LOOKING AT THE SWORDPLAY, ALTHOUGH THEIR MOVEMENT IS RATHER ODD, THE MOVES DON'T SEEM TO BE PARTICULARLY POWERFUL.
IN PARTICULAR, EVEN THEIR SO-CALLED ELITE FOUR WERE PART OF THE TRAINING TOO.

AND ONCE I WAS BACK AT MT HUA I SHOWED THEM TO OUR MASTER. HE IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIED THE MOVES AS BEING FROM
THE FORTUNE PRESTIGE AGENCY LIN FAMILY'S EVIL EXORCISING SWORDPLAY!
OF COURSE IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD IT IS CONSIDERED A TABOO TO WATCH OTHERS PRACTICING THEIR MARTIAL ARTS, SO I TURNED AROUND TO GO BACK TO MY ROOM.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I WAS WORRIED THAT THEY MIGHT BE DEVELOPING SAID SWORDPLAY TO DEAL WITH OUR SCHOOL, SO I ENDED UP MEMORIZING A FEW OF THE MOVES

MASTER THEN EXPLAINED THAT BACK WHEN MASTER YU'S TEACHER, CHANG QINGZI WAS YOUNG, HE ONCE CHALLENGED LIN ZHENNAN'S GRANDFATHER, LIN YUANTU AND LOST TO HIS EVIL EXORCISING SWORDPLAY. CHANG QINGZI WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH OUR GRANDMASTER.
BUT KNEW THAT HE WAS SIMPLY NOT LI YUANTU'S MATCH AND THUS NEVER ABLE TO SETTLE THE SCORE WITH HIM.
HE ONCE ADMITTED TO OUR GRANDMASTER THAT IT WAS THE GREATEST HUMILIATION OF HIS LIFE
THE TWO OF THEM STUDIED IT FOR MONTHS AND STILL COULD NOT DEVISE A WAY TO COUNTER IT.
GRANDMASTER STUDIED THE SWORDPLAY TOGETHER WITH HIM IN ORDER TO FIND ITS WEAKNESS. THE 72 MOVES LOOKED PLAIN, BUT THERE WERE MANY PROFOUND MYSTERIES HIDDEN WITHIN THAT THEY COULD NOT FATHOM, WHICH ALLOWED THE MOVES TO SUDDENLY BECOME VERY SWIFT.

AT THAT TIME, OUR MASTER WAS A MERE LAD WHO HAD JUST BECOME A DISCIPLE. HE SERVED THEIR TEA AT THOSE SESSIONS AND WAS ABLE TO WATCH THE MOVES EVERY DAY. SO WHEN I DEMONSTRATED THE MOVES, HE KNEW RIGHT AWAY THEY WERE FROM THE EVIL EXORCISING SWORDPLAY.
CHANG QINGZI DIED AT THE AGE OF 36. MAYBE HE COULD NEVER PUT THE INCIDENT BEHIND HIM,
AND FINALLY DIED WHILE BEING UNABLE TO LET GO OF THIS DEFEAT
NOW, LIN YUANTU DIED BEFORE CHANG QINGZI. SO IF YU CANGHAI WERE TO AVENGE HIS TEACHER, HE COULD ONLY GO AFTER LIN ZHONGXIONG, LIN YUANTU'S SON
MASTER SAID CHANG QINGZI WAS A NARROW-MINDED PERSON WHO THOUGHT HIGHLY OF HIMSELF. HE MUST HAVE TAKEN THE DEFEAT VERY BADLY. HE PROBABLY LEFT SOME KIND OF ORDER TO YU CANGHAI BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY
AND ALWAYS PLOT BEFORE MAKING HIS MOVE. THERE'S GOING TO BE A BIG FIGHT BETWEEN THE QINGCHENG SECT AND THE FORTUNE PRESTIGE AGENCY, SO MASTER ASKED ME TO HEAD TO FUZHOU TO GET BETTER GRASP OF THE SITUATION
BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE WAITED TILL NOW TO START THE ATTACK. YU CANGHAI IS A SHREWD MAN

IT WAS MEANT TO BE A SECRET MISSION, BUT OUR LITTLE SHIMEI HERE WAS QUITE CLEVER AND SOMEHOW HEARD ABOUT IT. SHE NAGGED THE MASTER INTO LETTING HER GO WITH ME.
AFTER THAT, MASTER THOUGHT ME A FEW OF QINGCHENG SECT'S MOVES THAT HE HAS PERSONALLY SEEN SO AS TO ALLOW MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND AGAINST QINGCHENG SHOULD THINGS TURN BAD.

BUT THEN ONE DAY BY SHEER COINCIDENCE THE AGENCY'S YOUNG MASTER LIN CAME TO PATRONIZE OUR INN. THEN, GUESS WHAT HAPPENED? THE TWO MOST USELESS DISCIPLES OF THE QINGCHENG SECT.
AND THEN EVERY DAY WE WOULD SNEAK INTO THE AGENCY TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON.
WE DISGUISED OURSELVES AS GRANDFATHER AND GRAND-DAUGHTER SELLING WINE OUTSIDE PUZHOU.

USELESS SON OF YU CANGHAI, STARTED TEASING AND MAKING FUN OF LITTLE SHIMEI. THAT'S WHEN THE YOUNG MASTER LIN STEPPED IN AND TRIED TO PROTECT US AND ENDED UP ACCIDENTALLY KILLING YU RENYAN.
WERE MEDIOCRE. HE DID HAVE INTEGRITY. MEANWHILE, YU RENYAN, THE YOUNGEST AND MOST
YU RENYAN AND JIA RENDA HAPPENED TO COME TO OUR INN AT THE SAME TIME. ALTHOUGH THE YOUNG MASTER LIN'S MARTIAL ARTS

THOSE DAMN QINGCHENG DOGS!
THEY HAD BEEN PLANNING THE ATTACK FOR AGES!

WHETHER I KILLED YU RENYAN OR NOT DIDN'T MATTER AT ALL!

WE WERE AFRAID TO BE SEEN BY THE PEOPLE OF QINGCHENG SECT, SO WE JUST OBSERVE FROM A DISTANCE. THEY WERE BRUTAL, KILLING THE HENCHMEN OF THE AGENCY ONE BY ONE, INCLUDING THE ONES SENT OUT TO GET HELP. BUT THE ODD THING WAS, IF IT WAS JUST TO AVENGE HIS SON,

THAT NIGHT, WE WENT BACK TO THE AGENCY'S ESTATE TO CHECK THINGS OUT AND SAW THAT MASTER YU HAD ALREADY ARRIVED WITH SOME OF HIS DISCIPLES.

WHY ONLY FORCED THEM TO LEAVE THE AGENCY?

WHY DIDN'T MASTER YU KILL ANY OF THE LIN FAMILY MEMBER? IF IT WAS FOR THE PREVIOUS GENERATION'S GRUDGE
WHY NOT CHALLENGE LIN ZHENNAN AND HIS SON?

AFTER LIN ZHENNAN AND HIS FAMILY LEFT, PEOPLE OF QINGCHENG SECT THEN SMUGLY HELPED THEMSELVES TO THE AGENCY.

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WE HUMBLY PAY RESPECTS TO OUR MASTER!
QING CHENG SECT'S LEADER YU CHANG HAI

P-PLEASE! H-HELP!
BRING HIM OVER!
CHEN QI
P-PLEASE NO!
MISTER, THIS GUY IS AN ACCOMPLICE TOO!

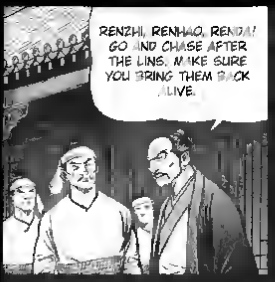
HFF! UNHAND HIM!
P-PLEASE!
H-HELP!
HAVE A TASTE OF MY PALM STRIKE!

AARGH !!!
HEART MUTILATION PALM STRIKE

碰!
THIS YU CHANGHAI IS ABSOLUTELY CRUEL!

RENYAN, I WILL BE SURE TO AVENGE YOU!

THERE'S STILL THAT LIN PINGZHI BRAT!


RENZHI, RENHAO, RENDA! GO AND CHASE AFTER THE LINS. MAKE SURE YOU BRING THEM BACK ALIVE.

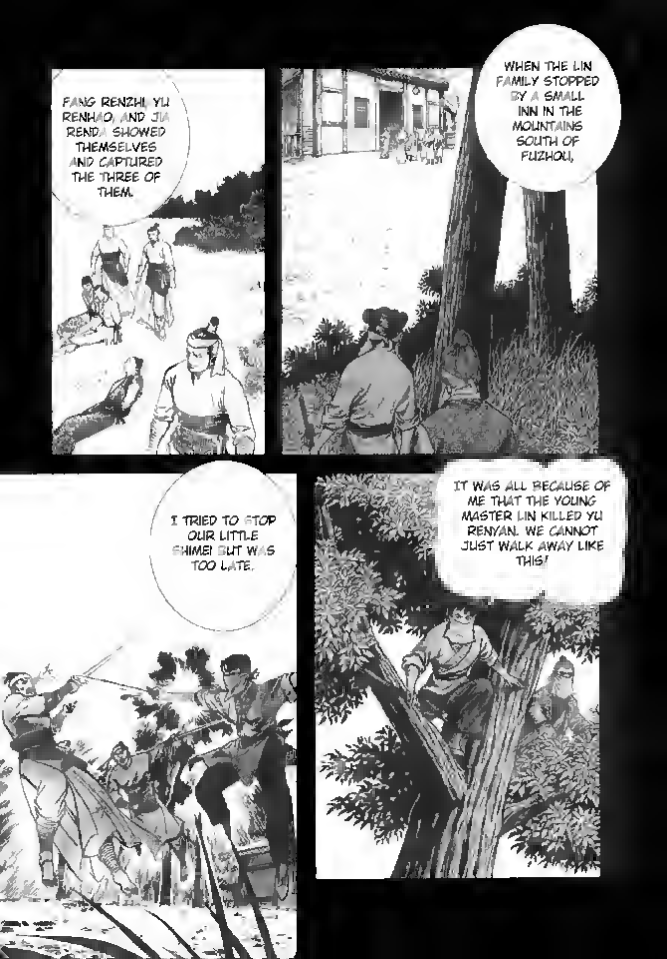
YES, MASTER!

LIN ZHENNAN, YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT ESCAPING MY CLUTCH!

EVERYONE ELSE, SEARCH THE PLACE!

SO WE CAUTIOUSLY TRAILED THEM

LET'S FOLLOW THEM AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.


FANG RENZHI, YU RENHAO, AND JIA RENDA SHOWED THEMSELVES AND CAPTURED THE THREE OF THEM.
WHEN THE LIN FAMILY STOPPED BY A SMALL INN IN THE MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF FUZHOU,
I TRIED TO STOP OUR LITTLE SHIMEI BUT WAS TOO LATE.
IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF ME THAT THE YOUNG MASTER LIN KILLED YU RENYAN. WE CANNOT JUST WALK AWAY LIKE THIS!

I AND SAW OVER TEN QINGCHENG DISCIPLES RANSACKING THE AGENCY'S ESTATE. THEY WERE BUSILY RUMMAGING THROUGH
CHESTS AND CUPBOARDS; SOME WERE TAKING DOWN WALLS; OTHERS WERE DIGGING UP THE GROUND. IT SEEMED THAT THEY HAD TURNED THE ENTIRE ESTATE UPSIDE DOWN.
THEY WERE EVIDENTLY LOOKING FOR SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
BUT WHAT WAS IT, DO YOU THINK?
OUR LITTLE SHIMEI SAVED THE YOUNG MASTER AND WANTED TO SAVE THE LIN COUPLE AS WELL BUT I SAID THAT BY THE END OF THE DAY, THIS IS
BETWEEN QINGCHENG SECT AND THE FORTUNE PRESTIGE AGENCY. WE ALREADY REPAID OUR DEBT BY SAVING THE YOUNG MASTER LIN.
SO THERE IS NO REAL REASON FOR US TO INTERFERE ANY FURTHER. OUR LITTLE SHIMEI FINALLY AGREED THEN THE TWO OF US WENT BACK TO FUZHOU.
THE MANUAL FOR THE EVIL EXORCISING SWORDPLAY!

JUDGING FROM THE WAY MASTER YU HAS BEEN BEHAVING THOUGH, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT AVENGING HIS SON IS FAR FROM HIS MAIN INTENTION. THE MANUAL IS WITHOUT A DOUBT HIS MAIN PRIORITY.

INDEED! AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY HAVE NOT FOUND IT

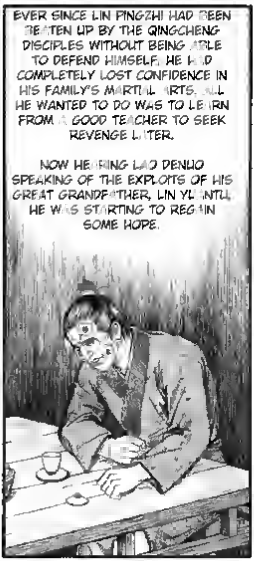
THIS DAMN YU CHANGHAI! WHAT AN UTTER BASTARD! HE'D EVEN GO THIS FAR TO DESTROYING OUR AGENCY JUST TO STEAL OUR FAMILY'S SWORD-PLAY!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT THAT I HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THESE PEOPLE, WE WOULD STILL BE IN THE DARK EVEN IN DEATH!

BUT NOT ONLY WAS THE MOVES THAT HE REMEMBERED NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY MASTER YU ALSO SAW WITH HIS OWN EYES THAT THE MARTIAL ARTS SKILLS OF THE LIN FAMILY WERE VERY MEDIOCRE SOMETHING WAS JUST NOT MAKING SENSE
IF THEY HAD ALREADY KNOWN HOW TO USE EXECUTE THIS SWORDPLAY WHY BOTHER LOOKING FOR THE MANUAL?
2ND SHIGE YOU SAID YOU SAW THEM PRACTICING THE SWORDPLAY OVER AT PINE-WIND ESTATE
WHO DID DEFEAT CHANG QINGZI
4TH SHIDI YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT BACK THEN, LIN YUANTU WAS INDEED A FAMED FORMIDABLE SWORDSMAN
WHICH ALLOWED THE MOVES TO APPEAR AVERAGE, YET DISPLAY OVER-WHELMING POWER WHEN EXECUTED
THERE MUST BE SOME SECRETS TO THE LIN FAMILY'S SWORDPLAY,
IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE SECRET TO WHAT GIVES THE SWORDPLAY ITS POWER.
I'M AFRAID SO! SEEMS LIKE MASTER YU IS SCHEMING TO GET HIS HANDS ON THE MANUAL
SO PERHAPS, EVEN LIN ZHEN-NAN HIMSELF HAS NOT LEARNED THE ESSENCE OF THE SWORDPLAY?

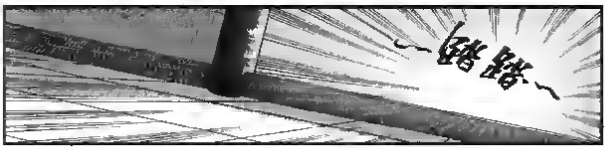
THAT'S RIGHT. MASTER YU IS A CONCEITED AND ARROGANT MAN. THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR HIM TO GET THE FAME AND POWER HE DESIRED

AND THEN, JUST LIKE LIN YUANTU QINGCHENG SECT WILL BE ABLE TO CLAIM SUPERIORITY OVER EVERYONE!


EVER SINCE LIN PINGZHI HAD BEEN BEATEN UP BY THE QINGCHENG DISCIPLES WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF, HE HAD COMPLETELY LOST CONFIDENCE IN HIS FAMILY'S MARTIAL ARTS. ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS TO LEARN FROM A GOOD TEACHER TO SEEK REVENGE LATER.
NOW HEARING LAO DENUO SPEAKING OF THE EXPLOITS OF HIS GREAT GRANDFATHER, LIN YUANTU, HE WAS STARTING TO REGAIN SOME HOPE.

EVEN YU CHANGHAI HIMSELF IS PROBABLY NOT ITS MATCH EITHER
SO OUR FAMILY'S SWORDPLAY REALLY WASN'T ANYTHING TO SCOFF AT.
YEARS AGO, EVEN THE MASTERS OF QINGCHENG AND MT HUA COULD NOT COUNTER IT.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY MANUALS THAT RECORD IT, SO THAT YU CHANGHAI MIGHT JUST BE WASTING HIS TIME
WERE CONVEYED TO ME VERBALLY BY MY FATHER WHO TOLD ME TO FULLY MEMORIZE THEM.
BUT STILL, ALL THE 72 MOVES OF THE SWORDPLAY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LINGHU CHONG, GET OUT OF HERE!

LINGHU CHONG, YOU RASCAL! HURRY AND SHOW YOURSELF!
MASTER DING MIAN ...?!

WE HUMBLY PAY OUR RESPECT TO MASTER DING MIAN!
MASTER, LINGHU SHIGE ISN'T HERE YET
AND WE'RE WAITING FOR HIM AT THE MOMENT
WHERE IS LINGHU CHONG? TELL HIM TO SHOW HIMSELF!

STILL, HEARING THAT LAO DENUO FELLOW TALKING ABOUT HIM HANDING THOSE QINGCHENG BASTARDS THEIR ASSES IS PLEASING TO ME!

HE REALLY SEEMS TO BE A REAL TROUBLEMAKER. WHAT DID HE DO TO MAKE THIS OLD NUN SO MAD?
SO THIS ELDEST DISCIPLE THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT IS NAMED LINGHU CHONG.

ENOUGH! THAT RASCAL JUST KIDNAPPED MY DISCIPLE SO STOP MESSING AROUND AND BRING HIM HERE!

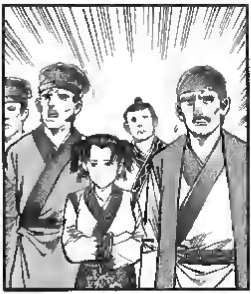
M-MASTER, THERE'S GOT TO BE A MISTAKE! NO MATTER HOW BOLD HE IS HE WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING AS PREPOSTEROUS AS THAT!

FELLOW DISCIPLES FROM MT TAI SECT SAID THAT PRIEST TIANSONG SAW DISCIPLE LINGHU AND YILIN SHIMEI DRINKING TOGETHER IN AN INN IN HENGYANG. THE INN WAS CALLED SOMETHING LIKE RETURNING GEESE—

YOU STILL DENY IT? YIGUANG, WHAT DID THE DISCIPLES FROM MT TAI SECT TELL YOU?

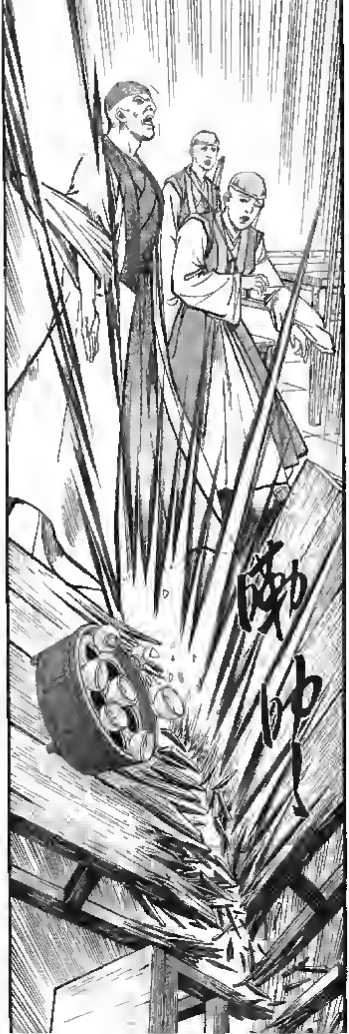
...AND— DRINKING ON THE SAME TABLE WITH THEM WAS THAT—THAT— VILLAIN TIAN BOGUANG

YILIN SHIMEI HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN SEIZED BY DISCIPLE LINGHU AND DARED NOT DRINK THE WINE. SHE LOOKED... LOOKED VISIBLY UPSET AND DISTRESSED.



NO-WAY...!

I-I DON'T BELIEVE IT EITHER..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MASTER TIANSONG MUST HAVE GOTTEN THE WRONG PERSON...!
THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS POSSIBLE! THERE'S NO WAY LINGHU DA-SHIGE WOULD...!
LINGHU CHONG THAT RAT HE'S EVEN GETTING ALONG WITH VILE BEASTS LIKE TIAN BOGUANG! TO THINK THAT HE HAS SUNK THIS LOW! EVEN IF YOUR MASTER IS TURNING A BLIND EYE I PERSONALLY WON'T LET HIM GO SO EASILY!
PRIEST TIANSONG OF MT TAI SECT? GETTING THE WRONG PERSON?! PREPOSTEROUS!
I...I LOOKED EVERYWHERE BUT STILL COULDN'T FIND THEM...
WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS AND WENT THERE TIAN BOGUANG AND LINGHU CHONG HAD ALREADY FLED TO WHO KNOWS WHERE WITH YILIN!
FOR TOO LONG THIS OLD NUN MUST RID THE PEOPLE OF THIS SCOURGE.
THAT 'TEN THOUSAND MILES LONER' TIAN BOGUANG HAS BEEN A PLAGUE ON SOCIETY

OH, YILIN, MY CHILD. MY POOR CHILD!

AH!

!?

WHEN YOU RETURN MY YILIN TO ME, I WILL RELEASE YOUR LINGSHAN!
YOUR MT HUA SECT ABDUCTED MY YILIN. SO I AM TAKING A FEMALE DISCIPLE OF YOUR SWORD SCHOOL IN EXCHANGE
THE ALLIANCE OF THE FIVE MOUNTAINS' SWORD SECTS ARE BOUND BY A COMMON INTEREST AND STRIVE TO COOPERATE AS ONE. HOWEVER AT THE MOMENT, ALL BECAUSE OF LINGHU CHONG, A CRACK HAS APPEARED WITHIN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MT HUA, NORTH MT HENG AND MT TAI. COULD THIS BE THE START OF A TURMOIL THAT WILL BREAK THE ALLIANCE APART?!
MASTER. !

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